

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed July 21, 2005. In order to advance prosecution of this Application, Claims 14, 29, and 30 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this Application.

Claims 14, 29, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 14, 29, and 30 have been amended to address matters raised by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 14, 29, and 30 are in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-6, 9-18, and 20-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chien, et al. The present Application, though filed on October 28, 2003, is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/416,430 filed October 12, 1999. The Chien, et al. patent has an effective filing date of September 15, 2000. The effective filing date of the present Application is earlier in time than the effective filing date of the Chien, et al. patent. Thus, the Chien, et al. patent is not an effective prior art reference to support a rejection of the claims in this Application. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-6, 9-18, and 20-30 are not anticipated by the Chien, et al. patent.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowability of Claims 7, 8, and 19 if placed into appropriate independent form. Since the Chien, et al. patent has been shown above to be insufficient to anticipate Claims 1-6, 9-18, and 20-30 from which Claims 7, 8, and 19 depend, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 7, 8, and 19 are already in condition for allowance along with Claims 1-6, 9-18, and 20-30.

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The specification has been amended to coincide with the amendments made during prosecution of the parent U.S. Application Serial No. 09/416,430 filed October 12, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,650,652.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Attorneys for Applicants

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles S. Fish', is written over the printed name.

Charles S. Fish

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